



LEE HOLLOWAY

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

For Immediate Release January 25, 2011
Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414-278-4051/harold.mester@milwcnty.com

COUNTY EXECUTIVE HOLLOWAY STATEMENT ON VOTER ID LEGISLATION

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Executive Lee Holloway released the following statement regarding proposed Voter ID legislation under consideration in the State Legislature:

“It is disappointing that some in the State Capitol are trying to put up barriers to voting. The ballot that our mothers, fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers fought so hard to get is now in jeopardy. I am gathering with Milwaukee County voters in our message to the Governor and the Legislature: Don’t take away our right to vote.

“Some legislators in the State Capitol are pushing and prioritizing legislation that will make it more difficult for eligible voters to exercise their franchise. They seek to enact unnecessary Voter ID legislation and to end same day registration in Wisconsin. These bills would disenfranchise certain groups of voters, including the elderly, students (such as those at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM); Marquette University; and the Milwaukee Area Technical College), the poor; and minorities. In fact, according to UWM, less than half of African American and Hispanic adults in Milwaukee County have driver licenses.

“The Milwaukee County Election Commission ensures that our elections are fair, accurate and efficient. I share this commitment and plan to create a coalition in Milwaukee County to oppose this radical change.

“Imposing a Voter ID requirement before the April 2011 election leaves little time to train poll workers properly or inform the public about a new requirement. Voter ID has nothing to do with creating jobs or building the economy. It is about pure politics and sets us up for a disaster on Election Day.

“This legislation will likely cost state taxpayers millions. These are dollars that could be better spent on creating jobs and enhancing mass transit to get people to and from work, rather than blocking their access to the ballot.”

###